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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,159	07/23/2003	Yukinori Saka	FP03-027US	8000
1218	7590	08/09/2004	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/625,159

Applicant(s)

SAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Xuong M. Chung-Trans

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/23/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. This application is has been examined. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2 and 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (USPN 4,676,580).

As per claims 1-2, Takahashi discloses a coupled terminal unit in which a plurality of terminal fittings (12) are coupled substantially in parallel by at least one coupling portion (11) and are to be separately arranged in a connector housing by cutting off the coupling portion (11) after being inserted into terminal insertion holes formed in the connector housing (col.1, lines 20-24), wherein: the coupling portion (11) is formed to be extendible in an arranging direction (AD) of the terminal fittings (12) of the coupled terminal unit, an arrangement pitch (Da) of the terminal fittings (12) is narrower than an arrangement pitch (Db) of the terminal insertion holes in a stamped-out state of the coupled terminal unit from a conductive plate, and the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings (12) can be made substantially equal to that (Db) of the terminal insertion holes by extending the extendible portion (11)(see (figs. 1-3) and col. 2, lines 11-60); wherein the coupling portion (11) is formed into a wavy shape to project along a

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thickness direction (latitudinal axes 14) of the coupled terminal unit when the coupled terminal unit is stamped.

As per claims 6-9 and 11, these claims are method claims correspond to claims 1-2; therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Schwindt et al. (USPN 4,428,642).

As per claim 3, Takahashi discloses the invention as claimed except for the coupling portion (11) connects adjacent terminal fittings (12) at intermediate positions (24). Schwindt, however, teaches the contacts 12 having upper tail portion and lower portion and the contacts (12) are joined to one another by integrally formed carrier segments 22 at their central (fig.1 and col. 1, lines 15-22, and col. 2, lines 1-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Takahashi unit with tail portions of the contact fittings, as taught by Schwindt to use the terminal connected to wires (col. 2, lines 1-5). *See fig. 1, 2, 3*

As per claims 4 and 10, Schwindt teaches the terminal fittings (12) each comprise a widened portion (14) having wider than other portions (20) of the terminal

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fittings (12), and wherein the coupling portion (22) connects adjacent terminal fittings (12) at a position at the widened portions (14) thereof. See fig. 1.

As per claim 5, Schwindt teaches the terminal fittings (12) each comprise a bulging portion (16) to be engaged with the connector housing, and wherein the coupling portion (22) connects adjacent terminal fittings (12) at a position near the bulging portions (16) thereof.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xuong M. Chung-Trans whose telephone number is (571) 272-2002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley, can be reached on (571) 272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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X. Chung-Trans



08/05/04

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER